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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA PROCESSING

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a method and an apparatus for processing data that is to be protected. The data is stored as encrypted data element values (DV) in records (P) in a first database (O-DB), each data element value being linked to a corresponding data element type (DT). In a second database (IAM-DB), a data element protection catalogue (DC) is stored, which for each individual data element type (DT) contains one or more protection attributes stating processing rules for data element values (DV), which in the first database (O-DB) are linked to the individual data element type (DT). In each user-initiated measure which aims at processing a given data element value (DV) in the first database (O-DB), a compelling calling is initially sent to the data element protection catalogue for collecting the protection attribute/attributes associated with the corresponding data element types. The user's processing of the given data element value is compellingly controlled in conformity with the collected protection attribute/attributes.